

October 10, 2001

STATE CANCER REGISTRY NEWS BRIEFS

Issue #1

You are reading the first edition of our latest method of communication. We plan to send these "News Briefs" periodically to keep you informed of current events, reminders, announcements, and activities. If you have an e-mail address, you will receive this automatically. Others without e-mail will be faxed or mailed a copy of the News Briefs. If you have suggestions or topics you would like to see covered in future issues, please contact any of our staff listed at the end of this document. We look forward to improving our communication with you, and hope you will consider this a two-way street for our common goal of better registry data to serve the citizens of Indiana.

NEW FOR 2001

Remember when coding any case diagnosed January 1, 2001 or later, you MUST use ICD-O-3 (purple manual) to record the primary site, histology, behavior, and grade. The histology and behavior codes must be entered into the correct ICD-O-3 field if your registry is computerized. You must also use the SEER Summary Staging Manual 2000 (pink manual) for patients diagnosed January 1, 2001 or later. If you are unsure where or how to enter these new fields in a record, contact your software vendor or the State Cancer Registry. Continue to use ICD-O-2 and SEER Summary Staging Guide 1977 for cases diagnosed prior to January 1, 2001, but accessioned after that date.

ICD-O-3

When you were sent a copy of the purple ICD-O-3 manual, you should have also received 8 pages of corrections (ICD-O-3 Errata and Clarifications, May 22, 2001). It is important to record these changes in your book, not just stick the pages in your manual. Many of these changes are significant and affect the codes and which cases are reportable.

If you need additional copies of either the ICD-O-3 or SEER Summary Staging Manual 2000, please contact the State Cancer Registry. Supplies are limited, but we will help out as much as we can.

TEXT IS REQUIRED

We can't stress enough how important it is to record text. Not only is it required by state policy and the federal National Program of Cancer Registries, but NAACCR also recommends text for a central registry to be in full compliance. Text is needed to justify the coded information, perform quality control checks on incoming data, and consolidate records. If there is a discrepancy in a case reported by more than one facility, we cannot determine the most accurate code without text. All data received at the State Registry beginning on January 1, 2002 will be scrutinized closely for text in critical fields, as described below. Data submissions with no or inadequate text will be rejected and you will be in noncompliance with State reporting requirements.

Text is required for the data items as described below. How do you know if your text is adequate? If someone else can read your words and assign the correct code, you're doing a good job of documenting text. Standard abbreviations are acceptable as long as the meaning is clear. Check with your software vendor or the State Registry if you are unsure how or where to complete these text fields. The text fields allow a limited number of characters, so enter only the most important information first and be brief. It is possible for various data items to be described in the same field. Examples of text documentation can be found in the State reporting manual.

Description of Diagnosis

Include words to describe the primary site, histology, behavior, grade, and laterality, if applicable. The description should reflect the final pathologic diagnosis, if available.

Diagnostic Procedures

Include relevant findings related to this cancer from the physical exam, biopsies, x-rays or scans, scopes, lab tests, or other pertinent clinical findings. Include dates for all findings. This information will be used to determine date of diagnosis, method of diagnostic confirmation, previous malignancies, stage of disease, and more.

Substantiate Stage

Describe in words how you determined the SEER Summary Stage (SSS). Describe depth of invasion, lymph node involvement, size of tumor, bone scan results, metastatic spread, or other applicable staging information.

Treatment

Describe the type and date of cancer-directed treatment. For surgery, record the name of the procedure or type of surgery and date. For chemotherapy, list the agents used and the date started. For radiation therapy, list the type of radiation (beam or other nonbeam) and date started. Describe other treatments, such as hormone, BRM or immunotherapy, etc. with dates.

PATH ONLY CASES ARE REPORTABLE

This is a reminder that if a pathology laboratory is located within a hospital or is employed or contracted by a hospital, the hospital's cancer registry has the legal duty and responsibility to report all malignant cases to the State Cancer Registry, regardless of whether or not the patient is a registered hospital inpatient or outpatient. This includes "path only" reports that your hospital path lab may be reading for private physicians or other outside sources. This duty to report is described in Indiana Administrative Code 410 IAC 21-1-4(b).

HOSPITAL PROFILES

If you haven't already done so, please complete and return your Hospital/Facility Profile forms. We use these profiles to update our database with the most current information about your facility. They are also used for monitoring your completeness of reporting, based on the number of cases you expect to see in a year. If you think your estimated expected caseload is too high or too low, it can be revised at any time - just give us a call.

BACK UP YOUR DATA

To protect your data, remember to back it up at least weekly, if not daily. If you do not perform this simple step routinely, all your hard work in abstracting cases could be lost if there were an emergency situation, such as a computer crash, flooding, fire, tornado, or other natural or man-made disaster. If you are using the Rocky Mountain software, and are not sure how to make a back up copy of your data for your facility, call the State Registry. Facilities using other software should check with their vendor for the best way to back up a copy of your data for safety and security purposes.

MISSOURI STATE ANNUAL MEETING

The Missouri State Tumor Registry Association (MoSTRA) would like to invite you to their annual meeting in St. Peters, MO from November 7 to 9, 2001. Topics include improving outcomes of treatment for lung cancer; HIPAA and risk management; neurosurgery-gamma knife procedure; genetics counseling; breast cancer treatment; bone marrow transplantation; leukemia treatment; lymphoma update; angiogenesis/monoclonal antibody treatment; colon, stomach, and lung cancer; and other relevant topics. Cost of the three-day meeting for non-members is \$125 if paid before 10-12-01. Please contact Martha Graves for a brochure if you are interested in attending.

Martha Graves, RHIA, CTR
Director, Indiana State Cancer Registry
Indiana State Department of Health
2 N. Meridian St., Section 7-D
Indianapolis, IN 46204-3066

Phone: (317) 233-7424 (Martha)
General: (317) 233-7158
FAX: (317) 233-7722

Shelley Boltinghouse	sbolting@isdh.state.in.us
Martha Graves	mgraves@isdh.state.in.us
Jackie Harber	jharber@isdh.state.in.us
Lisa LaGue	llague@isdh.state.in.us
Marsha Lundy	mlundy@isdh.state.in.us
Steve Nygaard	snygaard@isdh.state.in.us